

Z39.50 Update



January 18, 2007

Z39.50 Testing

Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) is preparing to test Z39.50 access to the *Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP)*, <http://catalog.gpo.gov>, GPO's bibliographic database of federal government publications. This feature of the Ex Libris Aleph 500 Integrated Library System (ILS) enables users to connect to the CGP via Z39.50 clients. Z39.50 access to the CGP will be the first of several methods by which GPO is planning to provide access to USMARC bibliographic records cataloged by GPO.

Plans for Testing:

GPO will be conducting several testing scenarios to validate Z39.50 access. GPO would like to solicit up to 25 volunteers from the depository library community to test Z39.50 access to the CGP for a period of four weeks, projected to begin in early March.

The purpose is twofold:

1. To test the functionality prior to general release to the entire depository community and the public;
2. To provide feedback on what works/what doesn't work as well as suggestions on how we can improve

What do we expect from testers:

- Conduct Z39.50 searches of the CGP, keeping in mind that the CGP is a database of federal government publications
- Retrieve bibliographic records from the CGP using Z39.50
- Provide feedback on likes/dislikes, problems, and suggestions for improvement or enhancement

After successful testing is complete, this service will be made available to depository libraries, the library community, and the public in a phased approach.

Those interested in volunteering to serve as testers should contact Linda Resler, lresler@gpo.gov. With "Z39.50 volunteer" in the subject line, please supply your name, email address, and depository number. A message will be posted to FDLPL-L when we have received 25 volunteers. Selected testers will be notified. More detailed instructions will be subsequently provided to those testers.